

further grounds for rejection, claim 1 should be allowed. Furthermore, the rejections against dependent claims 2 to 5 and 7 to 16 should be considered a moot issue, as these claims should be allowed by virtue of their dependency on the presumably allowable independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that all issues of the Office Action of January 13, 2004 have been appropriately addressed by the foregoing Remarks. Allowance of the present application with claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 16 is hereby earnestly solicited.

Dated: February 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7700
(212) 753-6237 (Fax)

By Edward J. Ellis
Registration No.: 40,389
Attorneys For Applicant